
CROOK COUNTY FSA NEWS

MAY 2008



TOWER OUTLOOK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CROOK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY
P.O. BOX 1070, 117 S. 21st ST.
SUNDANCE, WYOMING, 82729

OFFICE STAFF:

DANICE CONZELMAN - PROGRAM TECH
SUSAN RASMUSSEN - PROGRAM TECH.
MIKE IDLER - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 – 4:30 (Mon. - Fri.)

PHONE: (307) 283-2870 (Ext. 2) FAX: 283-2170

COUNTY COMMITTEE:

MERVIN PETERSON

DANNY WHITE

LARRY FOWLKES

ROXIE DACAR

ATTENTION PRODUCERS! Signup Still Underway for Disaster Assistance Programs

Livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for pasture losses incurred in 2005 and 2006. In addition, they may also receive compensation through the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) for livestock death losses suffered from the April 2006 blizzard. The DEADLINE to file for these two programs has been announced. Applications must be filed by July 18, 2008.

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity losses from crops and crops prevented from being planted in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Crops covered by either a NAP policy with our office or by crop insurance are eligible. Also, a loss of at least 35% must have been suffered. A program deadline date has not been established for CDP yet.

Call our office for further explanation of these programs and to schedule an appointment to make application.

2008 CROP REPORTS

We are currently taking crop acreage reports for the 2008 season. All producers that reported acreage to our office in 2007 have been scheduled an appointment and appointment cards are being mailed two weeks in advance. If you can't keep your appointed time and date call our office and reschedule. We have all of the crop maps from Reisig Insurance Agency. This will ensure that our report is consistent with crop insurance. If you are insured with another agent and have maps that they have prepared for you please bring them with you when you come to visit us. Crop reports are taking longer this year due to revised field acreages from the new GIS mapping system. Also, these acreage changes have created additional work in updating your CCC-502 forms (person determination and payment limitation provisions). You may also want to file your 2007 crop production report as well. If so, bring your production records with you. Crop reports are required for participation in many of our programs, such as DCP (crop base payment program), NAP (Non-insured Assistance Program), CRP (cropland and riparian areas set aside for habitat restoration and preservation), etc... Crop acreage reports filed after July 1st will be considered late-filed and subject to late-file fees.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2007 crop production must be reported by July 1, 2008 in order to be used for 2008 Actual Production History (APH) payment yield purposes for a crop covered by a NAP policy. Failure to timely report production can have an adverse impact on the overall crop yield history and payments.

If you have a loss on a covered NAP crop and wish to receive loss benefits from our office, you must file a notice of loss within 15 days of the earlier: 1) date of the disaster event that caused the loss or, 2) when the loss is apparent to you. A notice of loss must be filed for each weather-related event or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or loss of the specific crop. Failure to report crop damage or loss in a timely manner will result in ineligibility for Non-Insured Assistance Program payments.

BREAKING UP NEW SOD

Remember, if you will be breaking up new land, sod or very old cropland that has gone back to pasture, you need to contact this office prior to planting a crop. To be in compliance with sodbuster provisions you must notify this office, Farm Service Agency, of the area to be broken out and must file a revised form AD-1026. We will then delineate the "field" boundary and refer the new land to NRCS for a determination of "highly erodible". If the land to be broken up and farmed is highly erodible you must comply with the conservation plan developed by NRCS. Contacting NRCS and getting their concurrence to break up this land without first contacting this office to complete the necessary paperwork does not constitute compliance with sodbuster provisions. Producers who violate sodbuster provisions risk becoming ineligible for program benefits through USDA.

WOOL/MOHAIR/UNSHORN PELTS

The consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 authorizes Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payment programs for 2008 crops of wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. Remember that page 1 of the form must be filed before you lose beneficial interest in the commodity. Page 4 can be filed at anytime that you wish to receive payment but must be filed before January 31 of the following year.

FARM DIVISIONS and DIVISION OF ACREAGE BASES

When a portion of a farm is sold or otherwise becomes owned by 2 or more persons, we are required to divide the crop acreage bases among the resulting farms using one of several options. The designation by landowner method is the method of dividing the parent farm's crop acreage bases in a manner agreed to by the resulting owners. This method may be used when any of the following apply:

- Part of a farm is sold or ownership transferred
- An entire farm is sold to 2 or more persons
- Farm ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons
- Part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred
- A tract is sold to 2 or more persons
- Tract ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons

If you have sold or bought a part of a farm, please notify this office so we can begin the process of dividing the farm and crop acreage bases. You may use the designation by landowner method of distributing the crop acreage bases among the resulting farms if all owners agree in writing.

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

This year's election will be held for LAA (Local Administrative Area) number 2 {the middle third of the county – (From South Dakota border – that area North of I-90, west to Hwy. 14, to Cabin Creek road, to Deadman road west of Oshoto to Campbell County line; and from South Dakota border - that area South of Hwy. 24, west to Hwy. 112 to New Haven turnoff, New Haven Road, to Mule Creek road, to Grazing Association road west to the county line)}. Committee members serve on the board for a three year term not to exceed 9 consecutive years. Currently meetings are held every other month. To be eligible to hold office as a county committee member a person must meet the basic eligibility requirements of: 1/ participate or cooperate in an FSA administered program; 2/ be eligible to vote in the LAA election; 3/ reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate. Note (in special cases, this requirement may be waived).

Danny White is currently serving as the LAA2 representative to the county committee and after 9 consecutive years of dedicated and dependable service he must step down from this position.

To be eligible to vote in an LAA election a person must meet the requirements for either 1/ be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either: individual, or the authorized representative of an entity; 2/ not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm. And must also meet the requirement of participating or cooperating in any USDA FSA program.

What the county committee does for you – the producers of Crook County.

Our committee members are a critical component in the operations of our agency. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on the committee help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agriculture programs serve the needs of local producers. Committee provide local input into commodity loans and LDP payments; provide input into the local administration of conservation programs; review data and information used to establish yields, and loss levels for crop and livestock disaster programs that are specifically tailored to meet the needs of our local producers – some of the recent programs include the crop disaster, livestock assistance and livestock indemnity that are currently in a signup period. Other programs include emergency water for livestock during drought periods and providing assistance to producers suffering from the effects of wildfire damage to property; and approve a number of contracts and applications for various programs. County committees operate within the official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. Committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The election of agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers - whether an operation is large or small. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the United States Department of Agriculture.

If you or someone you know is interested in running for committee just call our office with any questions or comments that you might have and also to obtain a nomination form. The nomination period begins June 15th and nomination forms must be filed no later than August 1, 2008. Ballots will be mailed on November 3rd and ballots must be returned, or postmarked, by December 1st. Newly elected members take office on January 1, 2009.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

IMMEDIATELY...FILE notification of NAP loss forms within 15 days of loss

...Notify county office of direct deposit changes

...Notify county office of farm record changes or management changes

July 1...Deadline to report 2007 NAP crop production

July 1...Crop Report Deadline

July 4...Independence Day – Office closed

August 1...Committee Election nomination form deadline

ANYTIME...Continuous CRP enrollment

Call FSA prior to breaking up sod (new land) and before planting a crop on sod

For more information on any Farm Service Agency program, visit or call our office, or visit the FSA Homepage at www.fsa.usda.gov

Have a Nice Day, /s/ Mike Idler, CED

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication or program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD).

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